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STARTLING FIGURES.

An Official Document Showing That the Balance of Trade Against This Country is Bapidly Growing Larger—The Ques-tion of Exports and Imports Forbodes a Serious Figure 18 Situation.

WASHINGTON, March 24.-During the month of February the balance of trade against the United States amounted to \$20,000,000. For twelve months ended on the 25th of February last, the balance of trade against us was \$32,000,000. These figures, which have just been made public in a bulletin of the bureau of statistics, have attracted an unusual amount of attention here among men who give thoughtful attention to the financial situation. It is a remarkable and unpleasant showing, and the worst of it is that there does not seem to be any reason to expect a change for some time to come.

First of all the excess of imports over exports shows why \$32,000,000 of the \$80,000,000 of gold was exported last year. This amount at least has not been exported for foreign nations who desire to hoard gold, but because the people of the United States contracted debts for purchases made abroad. The articles which the people of the United States buy abroad to such an extent as to make the balance of trade against us make an interesting showing.

The figures for the seven months ending on the Sist of last January, the latest obtainable, give an answer to this interesting question. One of the largest items of increase is coffee. The imports in the seven months named, as compared with the same period in the previous year, Increased from \$02,000; 000 to \$78,000,000. The imports of to-bacco increased something like \$3,000,-000, while the one item of rubber ran up from \$9,000,000 to \$15,000,000. There was an increase of \$5,000,000 in importations of manufactured cotton, the total reaching \$19,000,000-of \$1,500,000 in manufactures of flax and bemp, and of the same amount for fruits: of \$3,090, 900 for manufactures of wool, and near ly \$2,000,000 for manufactures of wood.

The imports of iron and steel have increased \$5,500,000. The importation of unmanufactured silk increased in the seven months named to \$20,000,000 from \$15,000,000, while, in addition to this increase of \$5,000,000, there should be a ided the \$4,000,000 shown in the increased importations of articles of manufactured silk. In other words, for the few articles here enumerated the people of the United States paid over \$50,-000,000 more during the seven months ended on the 31st day of last January than they did for the same period one year previously.

Nor does it appear that there will be any immediate relief from this outgo of American money. Wheat and cotton are the great factors in the exports. The figures show that in the seven months already stated, as compared raw cotton fell off over \$50,000,000. The exports of wheat fell from \$116,000,000 to \$60,000,000 and all the other breadstuffs in like proportion. The exports of agricultural products fell from \$518,-000,000 to \$379,000,000. A bulletin issued by the department of agriculture conveys the information that the present conditions for the European crop are very favorable. This indicates that there will be little demand for American wheat abroad.

Another element that must be taken into consideration in connection with the balance of trade is the fact that since the war the merchant marine of the United States has stradily declined, until now this country pays as high as \$100,000,000 to foreign crews and ship owners for carrying American goods. The expense under this head is estimated as high as \$150,000,000.

It will be seen, therefore, that the question of exports and imports has reached a point where it forbodes a serious situation. It adds another problem to confront an administration which is already overburdened with perplexi-

TERRIFIC BLIZZARD

Sweeps Over the Northwest-Rain, Snew and Sleet Play Havoc With Telegraph

CHICAGO, March 24. - Advices from the northwest show that one of the most furious storms known for years began Wednesday evening and is still raging. At Duluth a foot and a half of snow fell and then it turned to sleet. A similar state of affairs exists in St. Paul and Minneapolla. Throughout Wisconsin there was almost a cyclone, accompanied by rain, snow and sleet. Par-ticulars from that state are difficult to obtain owing to the almost universal prostration of the wires. Milwaukee is absolutely cut off from the outside world. Telegraphic communication is also slow and uncertain throughout Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. In Minnesota few wires are working and the telephone system is wrecked. At St. Louis the first thunder storm of the season raged yesterday. The lightning was terrific and caused great delay to

telegraph business.

McCreary's Resignation. WASHINGTON, March 24.-Congressman McCreary, of Kentucky, has tendared his resignation as a member of the international monetary conference. The reason he gives is that he has such a large number of constituents to attend to that he cannot leave Washington. The conference adjourned on December 19 last to meet May 20. Since then three of its five delegates from this country-Senators Alliaon and Jones and Repre-sentative McCreary, have all tendered their resignations.

A FALSE POPULAR NOTION. The Woman Lobbyist in Washington Said

to Be a Fiction. There are some fictions concerning the capitol at Washington. Among them is one that the woman lobbyist is a power, and that her wiles and arts are successfully employed on the most eminent statesmen in congress, writes H. L. Nelson in Harper's Weekly.

It is true that there are women lobbyists, and that some of them years ago were eminently successful. There is nothing, however, so false as the idea that the woman lobbyist is a frequent spectacle, or that she has now any influence whatever on congressmen or legislation. The average congressman is a respectable and self-respecting man. It must be borne in mind that most members of the house of representatives and of the senate come from rural communities, and, as a rule, no man can be chosen from a rural community to a respectable public position who does not, at least apparently, walk in the paths of propriety. It may be that his reputation is false, but he is intent on preserving it, at all events, and consequently "it would not do," in the language of those who understand the full value of propriety, for a man who counts on continuing to receive the favors of a rural constituency to be seen very often in conversation with a professional woman lobbyist. Nor would the subject on which she desired to converse with him be likely to interest him if he were a man of position and character. No one who is in the habit of doing business with the national legislature or whose affairs are of sufficient importance to demand caution and intelligence in their transaciton would employ a woman lobbyist. The first friend he met, if he had no local attorney, would warn him off. Sometimes a poor, broken - down, wronged and inexperienced claimant, with justice on his side, and with a story of wrongs received from the redtape system prevalent in Washington, will fall into the hands of the fair harpy, who will rob him of his spare cash and leave him stranded and disappointed; for if anything beyond the natural indifference of congressmen is needed to defeat a just claim, it is the effort of a woman lobbyist.

MONARCH FOR CENTURIES.

A Pine Tree Which Stood in Pennsylvania

Long Before Columbus Landed. Ever since the days of the first set-tlers in the Pike county (Pa.) backwoods, a tree known as the "great pine" has been a landmark in Green township because of its immense height, the tree towering far above all the other trees in the pine forest that then covered the Pike county mountains, says the New York Sun. In the clearing away of the pine timber, which was the main pursuit of the dsmen for fifty years or more, this lordly tree was left standing, and thirty years ago it became the sole relic in all that region of the great primitive forest of pines, and since then has been famous throughout northern Pennsylvania as "the last pine." The natives had always regarded the ancient tree with great veneration, but the land on which it stood passed into the hands of alien owners and one day recently they had it cut down. The tree was found to be three hundred and seventy-two feet in height, and the infallible record of the rings of its stem showed its age to be four hundred and sixty-two years, so that it was a respectable tree sixty-two years old when Columbus discovered America. It is perfectly sound from butt to tip and will cut two thousand dollars' worth of lumber.

MARRIAGE IN ENGLAND.

A Dark Outlook for the Girls of the Middle Class.

The decline of matrimony in England, according to the London Telegraph, has of late years been very marked, more especially among the middle and upper classes. Nor are the revelations that are occasionally made in the divorce court of a nature to encourage the more prudent and eligible young men, and those who would make the best husbands, to be in any hurry to enter into the enjoyment of connubial bliss. It is some relief to middle-class families overburdened with an excess of daughters that the opportunities for girls earning their own living appear to be on the increase; but the competition for paid employment acceptable to young ladies of the middle classes is every day growing more severe. The prospects for middle-class girls in the immediate future appear, therefore, to be anything but bright, except to those who are not afraid of work. There are thousands of young men wanting wives in Australia and America, where there are few wives to be had. There is a career open to the surplus female population of England, if they can only manage once to get to the other side of the globe.

Crowding the Limit. The habitual borrower is a social nuisance that ought to be discouraged, but sometimes it is difficult to get rid of that nuisance. A Maine woman sent to the house of her nearest neighbor, according to the Lewiston Journal, and requested the loan of a new pair of seissors. The neighbor was using them, and sent back word accordingly. The would-be borrower was not to be rebuffed so easily, and presently her little girl appeared the second time to say: "Mother wants to know if you will lend her a quarter to buy a pair of seissors with."

WHERE ARE THE OLD MEN? A Question That Agitated a Venerable Inhabitant of Maine.

The writer spent a pleasant hour not long ago with a genial Maine gentle-man of more than middle age, and was rather set back by his pointed question: "What has become of the old men I knew when I was a boy?" At first thought this involved a question of futurity, to answer which required a lifting of the veil between this and the world beyond. But he presently explained himself. "When I was fifteen," he said, "all those around me over thirty years old seemed to be old men, and I wondered how I should feel when so many years had rolled over me. When I got to be thirty or forty most every-body was fair and young, and only those who were sixty or over seemed to be old. And now that I have got to be sixty everybody is young-just like me and all those who formerly seemed old are apparently just about my age. There are no old folks now; all are young men to my eyes; and what I want to know is, what has become of the old fellows?" This seems to be a universal experience of humankind. We all remember the poem of the old man who sat on a mossy stone by the roadside, "sadly musing," and to the young miss who asked the cause of his sorrow-

"Angel," said he, sadly, "I am old, My earthly hope no longer hath a morrow." From this view of himself it becomes almost a matter of certainty that a young person, to whom age seemed a distant thing, wrote the pcem, and that the alleged feelings of the old man are purely imaginary, for it was, at heart, a young fellow who must have sat on the stone.

An Administration Tariff Hill to be Pre-pared by Secretary Carlisle.

WASHINGTON, March 24.-Secretary Carlisle will spend a great deal of time this summer in preparing what will be known as an administration tariff bill for submission to congress as soon as it is called together. Besides the measure prepared by E. Ellery Anderson and his associates of the Reform club of New York, other measures are likely to be sent to Secretary Carlisle from various commercial and political organizations. All of these measures, the secretary says, will be treated merely as suggestions.

Furs

I will pay the highest market price for all kinds of Raw Furs delivered first door north of Nickel Plate restaurant, North

On and after April 1, my dressmaking department will be in the second story the Stroup building on Liberty street. have a vacant lot on Adams street that I will sell very cheap.

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WANTED—A local agent to sell first class reliable fertilizers in this town. Also agents wanted in other towns in this county. For full particulars with prices and terms, ad-dress with reference, i. ii. FUSTER, Syracuse, N. Y.

Divotee Notice

State of Ohio. | In the court of common Nancy J. Crider, plaintiff, vs Walter Crider, lefendant.

Petition for divorce and alimony. Notice. Petition for divorce and alimony. Notice.

The defendant will take notice that the plaintiff has filed in the court of common pleas of Lorain county her petition for divorce against him. Said petition avers that the said parties were married at Weilington on the fourth day of April, A. D., 1892.

That the defendant has been guilty of extreme cruelty toward her. That in the latter part of September last, while she was sick and in bed, without cause or provocation, he assaulted her in yreat anger, beat and swere. ther in great anger, beat and sever

assaulted her in great anger, beat and severely hurt her.

That in the fore part of December last, because of her inability to work because of such sickness, he in the night time and in anger and without cause attempted to smother her, and for safety she was compelled to fly and did fly to her father's room.

Because of said wrongful acts her allments were increased; that by reason thereof she on the ninth day of December separated from him and has from that time refused to live or conabit with him.

Said petition will be for hearing at the next term of the court of common pleas, to wit: On or after the 8th day of May, A. D. 180.

The defendant is supposed to reside in the city of Detroit in the state of Michigan.

By J. H. Dickson, her attorney.

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W. & L. E.

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|------------------------------|--|
| No.7 4.16p.m No.9 8.56p.m | No. 2 6:27 a.m No. 4 10:55a.m No. 6 3.16 p.m No. 16 (Local P. 20 p.m |
| No. 2 and 5 run dat | ly. |

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Flower pots-Florists supplies in general. Cut flowers for decoration or designs furnished on short notice,

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| Bran, per cwt | .90 |
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